

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**PAGE 1**

*Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24 as follows:*

Under these circumstances, one may think of using disposable pull-on diapers instead as their baby beings pulling up and/or stands but is very likely to be frustrated because it may still be practically impossible for one to make a baby, who has just started pulling up into a standing position to raise leg in order to put on a pull-on diaper. There may be no convenient way for one to do this but to resort to ~~changing diapers~~ changing diapers while restraining an active baby or infant who is trying to escape from being diapered into usual lying position.

**PAGE 10**

*Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 14 as follows:*

In the diaper 1 of a first embodiment, the region R also has a region R2 having a width W3 (see Fig. 3) of preferably at least 50 mm across the diaper and a lateral flexural stiffness of higher than 25 gf/50 mm (hereinafter referred to as a high stiffness region R2). From the standpoint of ease of diapering and shape retention during use, a preferred upper limit of the flexural ~~tiffness~~ stiffness of the high stiffness region R2 is 60 gf/50 mm, and a more preferred flexural stiffness of the high stiffness region R2 is from 30 to 50 gf/50 mm.

PAGE 16

*Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 12 as follows:*

These problems occur when the elastic member is fixed at a high extension ratio as with the case of embodiments of the present invention. In other words, the inconvenience arises from the phenomenon that the standing gathers stretched in diapering exhibit contractibility to be relieved from the tensile stress and make the whole diaper roll-up. Solving such problems, the present invention has succeeded in assuring ease of diapering by reducing the tensile load to some extent thereby suppressing its behavior to contract, retarding the contraction, or reducing the force necessary to widely open the contracted gathers. With the fixing extension ratio being equal, the tensile stress is a governing factor. The smaller the tensile stress, the more extensible the standing gathers and the easier to handle the diaper. Unless the tensile load at the effective extension ratio exceeds 120 gf, the manageability of the diaper is not impaired, and [[a]] one is able to widely open the diaper with ease.